

Presidents' Advisory Committee Recommendations to the Affordability Subcommittee

The Presidents' Advisory Committee by general consensus supports the following recommendations for consideration by the Affordability Subcommittee:

- Strongly consider a student financial aid policy for public postsecondary institutions that ensures the state has primary responsibility for need-based aid while the institutions have primary responsibility for merit-based aid.
- Undertake a thorough study of the effectiveness of the state's financial aid programs, including the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship program, to ensure the state's limited resources are targeted to students with the greatest financial need, and focused on student access and success.
- As a condition of receiving institutional, state, or federal need-based or merit-based financial aid, require Kentucky students to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Provide more assistance to students and families in completing the form.
- Better distinguish for students and their parents between the published cost of attendance ("sticker price") and the actual cost most students pay for their education. Widely publicize this message on the state's college access outreach website, the institutions' websites, through early college awareness activities and materials, and other communications channels.
- Develop policies at public postsecondary institutions to ensure students are not awarded financial aid packages (including waivers, merit-based and need-based aid) in excess of the total cost of attendance ("stacking"). This would allow limited financial aid resources to be directed to more students, as well as to students with the greatest financial need.
- In addition to measures already taken by the institutions, explore further opportunities for producing efficiencies and savings through statewide purchasing consortia, centralization of some university functions, shared resources or programs, and other cost containment strategies.
- Explore measures to encourage or reward students who finish a bachelor's degree program in four years and/or within their program's credit hour requirement. Possibilities include refundable loans, tuition reductions, or other incentives for students who make timely progress through the postsecondary education system.
- Research best practices in improving and expanding work study and other campus employment opportunities for students.
- Undertake a review of tuition waivers required by statute to ensure they are not replacing or duplicating any Federal or state aid program that may be available to students. Adopt a moratorium on new tuition waivers until this review is complete.
- Urge the Governor, Kentucky's congressional delegation, and other Federal officials to press for simplification of the FAFSA form. Pledge that neither the state nor the institutions will adopt additional forms or requirements to augment a streamlined form.